UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad

DATE: 1/23/67

FROM : V. D. Griffith

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING

The most recent book by Harold Weisberg entitled "Whitewash II - The FBI - Secret Service Coverup" is highly critical of the Bureau and specifically of the testimony of FBI Laboratory Examiner SA Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt. Weisberg previously authored the book "Whitewash" and is now reported to be writing "Whitewash III." Harold Weisberg is a Hyattstown, Maryland, poultry farmer, an ex-State Department employee, and an ex-Senate investigator who was removed from both positions because of suspicion of being a communist or having communist sympathies. Weisberg had the book printed himself because he could not interest any publishers in it possibly due to the libelous nature of its contents.

In Whitewash II, Weisberg extensively quotes the testimony of SA Shaneyfelt regarding the examination of the Zapruder film and the re-enactment that was based on the Zapruder film. He states that Shaneyfelt "ran the re-enactment that was made essential by the doctrine of the Report" and "the FBI knowingly engaged in a reconstruction they knew to be utterly false." He alleges in Whitewash II that SA Shaneyfelt "was the Commission's photographic expert," "he did or supervised their photographic lab work," and "those lines on the cutting room floor may have been put there by Shaneyfelt." After establishing in the reader's mind that SA Shaneyfelt did all the photographic work he refers

Enclosure - Interview re Jamal
Ing SA Shaneyfelt
2-6-67

62-109060

1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Casper (Legal Research Desk)
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Griffith
1 - Mr. Shaneyfelt
1 - 62-109090
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ENCLOSURE

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unceasingly to "picture doctoring," "edited or altered" photographs and the "destruction of evidence." He concludes with a very specific implication that SA Shaneyfelt cut out the much-publicized missing frames 208 through 211 of the Zapruder film to conceal from the public what really happened during the assassination. All of these allegations are, of course, completely false. (Life Magazine has recently admitted having spliced the original Zapruder film and cut out the four frames.) These frames were not missing in the FBI copy of the film and were considered in all evaluations by the Laboratory and the representatives of the Commission who viewed the FBI copy. SA Shaneyfelt made several photographic examinations at the request of the Commission but did not "run their photographic lab work." He assisted in the re-enactment but did not "run it" and, of course, did not edit, doctor, or mutilate any evidence. Weisberg suggests that SA Shaneyfelt may be a perjurer.

The allegations of Weisberg would appear to be libelous of both the Bureau and SA Shaneyfelt. Accordingly, in an effort to discourage and stop such highly irresponsible and unwarranted attacks against the Bureau on the part of Weisberg and others like him, the Bureau may wish to explore the feasibility of having a libel action brought against Weisberg in SA Shaneyfelt's name. Factors to be weighed in any such consideration are: (1) Legal estimate of whether successful suit might be sustained based on (a) the irresponsible and malicious statements in the book as opposed to (b) the recent Supreme Court decision holding that newsworthy persons including those who do not seek publicity have only a limited right to sue for damages for false reports that are published about them; and (2) a tactical estimate as to whether a net gain would accrue, bearing in mind the greatly increased forum which such an action would provide for Weisberg, as opposed to the fact that he is now apparently forced to publish his books privately.

SA Shaneyfelt, of course, contemplates no action in the matter unless so desired by the Bureau.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Bureau may wish to refer this memorandum and the enclosed book "Whitewash II" to the Legal Research Desk for review and consideration as to whether it might serve as a basis for libel action against Weisberg.